

Adult Assistance

The adult assistance programs include Old-Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Blind (AB), and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD). These programs of federal grants to states were in effect in the 50 states and the District of Columbia until January 1974, when they were replaced by the federally administered Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The 1972 Amendments to the Social Security Act, which established the SSI program, provided for the continuation of OAA, AB, and APTD in Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

General Assistance

General assistance refers to money payments or payments to vendors to or on behalf of needy persons who do not qualify for federally financed assistance programs or who require additional assistance. It is provided by state and local government jurisdictions, and is not financed in whole or in part by federal funds.

Eligibility requirements and payment levels of general assistance programs vary from state to state and often within a state. Payment levels are usually lower than those provided by federally financed programs and may be of limited duration. Recipients include unemployed persons and persons whose disabilities are not of sufficient severity to qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

General assistance may be administered by the state welfare agency, a local agency, or a local agency under state supervision.